



Montana
Office of Public Instruction
Denise Juneau, State Superintendent

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The Montana Office of Public Instruction (OPI) is pleased to announce the opportunity for schools, districts, and community-based organizations to apply for a 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC) Afterschool Program grant. The 21st CCLC is the result of the No Child Left Behind legislation passed by the U.S. Congress. The funding for this new grant cycle is contingent upon the availability of federal funds.

Eligibility for a 21st CCLC grant is determined when **40 percent of the students from an applicant school or a partnering school are eligible for free and reduced-priced meals.** The application process will be competitive and must be submitted online using the OPI's E-Grants System. **The OPI anticipates the application will be available on February 18, 2014.**

All applicants must have the Superintendent and Principal Support Certification Form mailed to the OPI by March 14, 2014, postmarked by midnight. All public schools will have a Legal Entity (LE) number. Nonprofit organizations and private schools will need to obtain an LE number; therefore, need to submit an Intent to Apply, Commitment to Partner, and Taxpayer Disclosure Statement. In addition, nonprofit organizations will need to submit a 2014 E-Grants Security Form to "IT Security Officer", E-Grants Security, in order to receive a login to complete the E-Grant Application. The above forms may be downloaded from Montana's 21st CCLC Website: <http://www.opi.mt.gov/Programs/TitlePrgms/SafeSchools/21Century/index.html>. Mail all forms to Mary Ellen Earnhardt, 21st CCLC Representative, Office of Public Instruction, PO Box 202501, Helena, MT 59620-2501, or fax them to 406-444-2955. **The Intent to Apply, Commitment to Partner, and Taxpayer Disclosure Statement forms must be postmarked or faxed by March 14, 2014, postmarked by midnight.** Please note that it can take up to two weeks for an LE number to be assigned.

Prior to completing the online application, applicants are strongly encouraged to consider how they will:

- Provide opportunities for academic enrichment, including the provision of tutorial services to help students (*particularly students in high poverty areas and those who attend low-performing schools*) meet state and local academic achievement standards in core subjects, such as reading, mathematics, science, and language;
- Offer students a broad array of additional services, programs, and activities that incorporate the Common Core standards, and are designed to reinforce and complement the regular school day academic program of participating students; and
- Offer families of students served by community learning centers opportunities for personal development in areas such as literacy and educational enhancement. The community learning center should develop and nurture the potential for parents or guardians to assist in instructing their children while supporting their children's academic success and social development.

While preparing for this grant, please consider the following points:

1. The extent to which you have evaluated the needs of your students and community;
2. The resources you have identified within your community;
3. The partnerships you have initiated or will initiate;
4. Your overall level of preparedness to implement the project;
5. Prioritization of activities including: Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM), Career/Technology education, early learning, physical activities, nutrition education, and program evaluation;
6. Well defined objectives that employ strategies;
7. A sustainability plan; and
8. A safety plan for students including emergency preparedness and transportation needs.

The Montana Office of Public Instruction provides vision, advocacy, support, and leadership for schools and communities to ensure that all students meet today's challenges and tomorrow's opportunities.

A grant application webinar will be held on February 26, 2014, at 10 a.m. If you are interested in attending the webinar, please contact Mary Ellen at mearnhardt@mt.gov for more information.

The **E-Grants Application is due April 14, 2014**. The Montana 21st CCLC staff is available to provide any assistance necessary, and I wish you well in this competitive process.

Sincerely,

Mary Ellen Earnhardt
Education Program Representative
21st Century Community Learning Centers
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mearnhardt@mt.gov